

IN THE CLAIMS

1. – 6. (canceled)

7. **(currently amended)** A band control device comprising:

a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a single logical link, and

a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic,

wherein the controller transmits/receives a message for establishing the sub-logical link to/from an opposite controller,

wherein the controller returns a message for establishing, through the established sub-logical link, a return sub-logical link ~~port established~~ based on the received message ~~as a return sub-logical link port~~.

8. – 10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) A band control device comprising:

a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a single logical link, and

a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic,

wherein the controller transmits/receives a message for establishing the sub-logical link to/from an opposite controller,

wherein the controller relays the message to a subsequent apparatus,

wherein when a band of the sub-logical link requested by the received message is larger than an assignable band of a sub-logical link in the subsequent apparatus, the controller discards the message and returns an error message.

12. (previously presented) A band control device comprising:

a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a single logical link, and

a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic,

wherein the controller transmits/receives a message for establishing the sub-logical link to/from an opposite controller,

wherein the controller relays the message to a subsequent apparatus,

said band control device further comprising a scheduler for transmitting a traffic, with a priority control, to the subsequent apparatus,

the controller instructing the scheduler to transmit the traffic which meets the specified condition with a priority, and transmitting a message notifying a request band of the traffic to the subsequent apparatus.

13. – 15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A band control device comprising:

a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a single logical link, and

a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic,

wherein the controller transmits/receives a message for establishing the sub-logical link to/from an opposite controller,

wherein when the physical link included in the sub-logical link degenerates and no physical link substituted for the degenerated physical link can be secured, the controller transmits a message requesting that a number of physical links included in the sub-logical link should be decreased.

17. (previously presented) A band control device comprising:

a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a single logical link, and

a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic,

wherein the controller transmits/receives a message for establishing the sub-logical link to/from an opposite controller,

wherein when no physical link exists since the physical link excluded in the sub-logical link is degenerated, the controller transmits a message requesting that a number of physical links included in the sub-logical link should be decreased.

18. (previously presented) A band control device comprising:

a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a single logical link, and

a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic,

wherein the controller transmits/receives a message for establishing the sub-logical link to/from an opposite controller,

said band control device further comprising a traffic monitor for monitoring an amount of a traffic except the traffic which meets the specified condition,

the controller decreasing a number of physical links included in the sub-logical link when the traffic amount becomes larger than a predetermined amount, and outputting a message requesting that the number should be decreased.

19. (original) The band control device as claimed in claim 16, 17, or 18 wherein when receiving the number decrease request message, the controller decreases the number of physical links included in a corresponding sub-logical link.

20. (original) The band control device as claimed in claim 19 wherein the controller further relays the number decrease request message to a subsequent apparatus.

21. (previously presented) A band control device comprising:

a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a single logical link, and

a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic,

wherein the controller transmits/receives a message for establishing the sub-logical link to/from an opposite controller,

wherein when receiving a message requesting an establishment of a sub-logical link different from the sub-logical link already established and no requested band can be secured, the controller returns an error message.

22. (original) The band control device as claimed in claim 21 wherein when receiving the error message, a source controller of the establishment request message transmits again the establishment request message after a standby for a fixed period.

23. – 24. (canceled)